

## REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 8 is amended. No new matter is presented. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted to overcome the cited objections and rejections. Therefore, Applicants request that claims 8-14 be favorably considered and a notice of allowance be issued.

Claims 8-11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Humphrey (U.S. Patent No. 4,730,910). The Examiner takes the position that Humphrey teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 8-11 and 13. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Humphrey discloses a wide angle lens system of at least two, and preferably four similar powered symmetrical component lenses. The first and last lenses are displaced and rotated usually by rotation about the object or its conjugate in a first direction to use lens portions between the lens center and one edge; the intermediate lens are displaced and rotated in an opposite direction to use the lens portions between the other lens edge and center. Deflected rays in the lens system utilize marginal portions of the lens between the center and one edge only; neither the non-deviating portion of the spherical lenses nor the opposite side of the spherical lenses are used. The lenses are non-concentric.

It is submitted that Humphrey fails to teach or suggest at least two lenses of these at least four lenses being tilted with respect to their optical axes relative to the illumination beam path and the imaging beam path.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Humphrey discloses tilting all four lenses with respect to the illumination beam path in a manner that all four optical axes of the tilted lenses lay in the same plane. In the claimed invention, however, only pairs of lenses are tilted together to form a first and a second plane with their optical axes and the illumination beam. Thus, the tilting of the lenses in two planes extending perpendicular to one another brings

about matching of the imaging scales for two sections extending perpendicular to one another. As a result, the images are less distorted and the similarity of imaging is achieved. Since Humphrey discloses that all four lenses are tilted in the same plane rather than two lens being tilted in different planes, it is submitted that Humphrey fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claim 8.

Claims 9-11 and 13 are dependent upon claim 8. It is submitted that these claims recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-11 and 13.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphrey and further in view of Howell (U.S. Patent No. 2,978,956). The Examiner takes the position that the combination of Humphrey and Howell teach or suggest the features recited in claim 12. Applicants respectfully disagree.


Claim 12 is dependent upon claim 8. It is submitted that claim 12 recites patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Also, it is submitted that Howell fails to cure the deficiencies of Humphrey. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphrey. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 14.

It is submitted that claim 14 recites patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits claims 8-14 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references. Thus, for the reasons presented above, claims 8-14 are believed by Applicant to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 17, 2007  
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